

vital and necessary partner in its community, and a leader in the Commonwealth and the country. Mr. President, I know my colleagues will join me in sending best wishes to the board members and employees at Fairfax Water.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BOWBELLS, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 28-30, the residents of Bowbells will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Bowbells is a vibrant community in northwestern North Dakota, just a short drive from the Canadian border. The town was founded in 1896 with the help of the Soo Line Railroad that passed through the town. The name "Bowbells" came from the bells at the Church of St. Mary-le-Bow located in London, England, that were in the shape of bows. By 1913, the town was served by two different railroad lines. Today, it is the county seat of Burke County, ND.

Many citizens of Bowbells support their families through agriculture, producing a wide array of products, including canola, flax, barley, sunflowers, hard red spring wheat, and durum. Located near Bowbells is the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge, which supports a large waterfowl population. Outdoor enthusiasts can also enjoy both fishing and hunting opportunities in and around Bowbells.

Citizens of Bowbells have organized numerous activities to celebrate their centennial. Some of these activities include a golf tournament, class reunions, street dances, a 5K/10K walk/run, a parade, softball and baseball games, and all-faith services.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Bowbells, ND, and its residents on the first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Bowbells and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Bowbells that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Bowbells has a proud past and a bright future.●

IN HONOR OF ISRAEL HOROVITZ

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the life and work of a special individual. At the end of this year, Mr. Israel Horovitz will retire as artistic director of the Gloucester Stage Company, and as he prepares to do so I am proud to join with his colleagues, family, and fans in celebrating more than 25 years of sustained artistic contributions to Massachusetts and the country.

Modern American theater has much to celebrate as a result of Israel's lead-

ership at Gloucester Stage. Born in Wakefield, MA, he returned to his home State to found the Gloucester Stage Company after holding such prestigious posts as the Royal Shakespeare Company's Playwright-in-Residence. Since the inception of Gloucester Stage in 1979, the theatre has premiered the works of esteemed playwrights such as Terrence McNally, Wendy Wasserstein, and in the years since has brought real meaning to Horovitz's vision of a theatre that serves as a "safe harbor for new writing." In the course of bringing the works of new, undiscovered playwrights to life, Gloucester Stage has hosted over 35 world premieres of plays, many of which went on to successful runs on Broadway and beyond.

In addition to celebrating Israel as the artistic director, we must also celebrate his writings. Horovitz is the author of more than 50 plays and he stands as one of the most internationally acclaimed American playwrights of our time. He was presented with the prestigious Elliot Norton Prize celebrating his work with the theatre. And his plays and screenplays have earned him many of the industry's most prestigious awards, such as the OBIE, which he earned twice, the Prix du Jury of the Cannes Film Festival, the Prix du Plaisir du Theatre, an Award in Literature of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from B'Nai Brith, among many others. On March 29, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts honored Horovitz with a Governor's Leadership Award and under his leadership Gloucester Stage has received numerous Best of Boston awards as well as the New England Theatre Conference Award.

I am proud to represent a State where Israel's artistry has blossomed, inspired young and old minds alike, entertained generations, and lifted lives. He is one of our true cultural treasures, and he has honored the best traditions of the theater by asking difficult questions and using them to illuminate and celebrate the human condition. I wish Israel and Gillian the very best as they look back on so many achievements and contributions to modern American culture, and I wish them the very best as they begin this new chapter in life.●

TRIBUTE TO MORGAN HARRIS

● Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I often rise to speak about the issues being debated on the floor of the Senate, whether it be to share my thoughts on immigration, the war in Iraq, or the marriage amendment—as was the case this past week. I am honored to speak for the people of Alabama and to share their concerns with my colleagues in the Senate. Today I wish, not to debate, but for a moment reflect on the rich history of our Nation.

I have heard it stated, on more than one occasion, that the length of a per-

son's stay in Washington should be measured by the feeling they get standing on Constitution Avenue at dusk. As a public servant, I find it impossible to look at the Capitol, illuminated against the night sky, without reflecting on the history and sacrifice of our forefathers.

I was reminded of this while reading a speech written by Morgan Harris, a sixth grader at Hampton Cove Middle School in Huntsville, AL. Morgan, tasked by his English and Social Studies teachers to write a speech about the flag, took the creative approach of writing from the flag's perspective. While there have been poems written from similar points of view, I found Morgan's speech to be a refreshing reminder of the history and importance of Old Glory. I share it with you today:

FLAG SPEECH

(By Morgan Harris)

I am the flag. I was originated on June 14, 1777. I was given 13 stripes alternating red and white with 13 white stars in a field of blue. I am the flag. My content was dictated, but my arrangement was not. Many made me appear in different ways. My stripes usually stayed the same, but my stars were often rearranged. For many years history has taught that Betsy Ross was my original maker. Though she made many flags, there is no proof that she made me first. In 1818 my design was set. The only change was to add a star for each new State. I was carried by soldiers into battle. I flew from the masts of great ships. For 47 years I had 48 stars. In 1959 and 1960 I was given two stars for the new States of Alaska and Hawaii. Today, I still have those same 50 stars and 13 stripes. I am the flag.

To show respect and dignity for what I represent, rules have been written for my use and care. When I am displayed during the playing of the national anthem, men and women in uniform stand at attention and salute me. All others stand at attention with their right hand over their heart and men remove their hats. During the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone is to stand at attention with their right hand over their heart. I am usually flown in the outdoors from sunrise to sunset. However, I may be flown for 24 hours a day if lighted during darkness. I should not be left out in the rain or bad weather. I am flown at half-staff upon the death of great people to show respect to their memory. I am draped over the caskets of those who serve our country. No other flag is to fly about me. I am the American flag.

I should never be allowed to touch the ground and should be stored and protected. I should never be displayed upside down, except as a sign of distress. I should always be carried aloft and free. I represent a living country and I am considered a living thing. Therefore, when I am worn as a pin I should be worn on the left near the heart. When I am no longer fitting for display, I am to be destroyed in a dignified manner, preferably by burning.

The writer Henry Ward Beecher once said, "The American flag has been a symbol of Liberty and men rejoiced in it." Mr. Beecher was stating how the flag represents our freedom in America and this is what I love most about the flag.

When I see the flag flying high on a flag pole and hear "The Star-Spangled Banner" played, I think of the freedom we have as Americans. I think of the men and women who have died so that we may have this freedom. It makes me proud to be an American. The flag is our symbol of freedom."

Mr. President, I am sure it will come as no surprise to you that Morgan's speech won first place out of 148 entries at his school. He has much to be proud of.●

IN HONOR OF DR. ROBERTO LANGER

● Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and celebrate the work of a great man whose work has an impact on lives throughout this country and all over the globe. This month hundreds of scientists will gather at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to celebrate one of their own, Doctor Robert Langer, and I am proud to join them in doing so.

Most Americans will never meet Dr. Langer, but chances are his research has already affected their life. One of America's most brilliant scientists, Dr. Langer has been on the front lines of the fight to cure cancer and continues to push the envelope of biomedical engineering. Dr. Langer studied chemical engineering in college after being inspired by the gift of a chemistry set as a child. He went on to receive his doctorate from MIT in 1974. Doctor Langer accepted a postdoctorate fellowship at Children's Hospital in Boston with Judah Folkman, a leading cancer researcher.

Dr. Langer's return to MIT as a professor of chemical engineering resulted in the creation of the Langer Lab, one of the most cutting-edge biotechnology laboratories in the world. Researchers at the Langer Lab study ways to utilize polymers to deliver life-saving drugs to patients with diseases such as diabetes and cancer, and the success of Doctor Langer's work earned him a place as one of CNN's "100 Most Important People in America." In 2004, Parade magazine selected him as one of six "Heroes whose research may save your life."

Dr. Langer's genius has been recognized repeatedly by his scientific peers as well. He is the recipient of over 140 major awards, including in 2002 the premier award in science, the Charles Stark Draper prize. In 1998, he was awarded the Lemelson-MIT prize for invention, and in 2006 he was inducted into the Inventor's Hall of Fame. He holds nearly 550 patents, 180 of which are licensed to medical, chemical, or pharmaceutical companies. Dr. Langer is one of a select few elected to all three of America's National Academies—the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences—and at age of 43, was the youngest man to be so honored.

Massachusetts has a long and rich history of technological innovation, global leadership in health care, and advancing insight into the human condition. Dr. Langer's genius and creativity have kept the faith with that history through 30 years of providing cutting-edge solutions to the medical problems of today and tomorrow.

Along with his colleagues, family, and friends, I thank him for his contributions and look forward to many more years of his work on behalf of people all over the globe.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:13 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hanrahan, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House insists upon its amendments to the bill (S. 250) to amend the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998 to improve the Act, and asks a conference with the Senate on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon; and appoints the following members as the managers of the conference on the part of the House: Mr. MCKEON, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. OSBORNE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. KIND.

The message also announced that the House passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2990. An act to improve ratings quality by fostering competition, transparency, and accountability in the credit rating agency industry.

H.R. 5646. An act to study and promote the use of energy efficient computer servers in the United States.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S.J. Res. 40. A resolution authorizing the printing and binding of a supplement to, and revised edition of, Senate Procedure.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2990. An act to improve ratings quality by fostering competition, transparency,

and accountability in the credit rating agency industry; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 4411. An act to prevent the use of certain payment instruments, credit cards, and fund transfers for unlawful Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-7493. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Feasibility of Federal Drug Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7494. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Realignment of the Santa Lucia Highlands and Arroyo Seco Viticultural Areas" ((RIN1513-AA72)(T.D. TTB-49)) received on June 28, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7495. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of the San Francisco Bay and Central Coast Viticultural Areas" ((RIN1513-AA55)(T.D. TTB-48)) received on June 28, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7496. A communication from the Deputy Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Expansion of the Livermore Valley Viticultural Area" ((RIN1513-AA54)(T.D. TTB-47)) received on June 28, 2006; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7497. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the designation of an acting officer for the position of Administrator, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, received on June 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7498. A communication from the Acting General Counsel, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, (2) reports relative to vacancy announcements within the Agency, received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7499. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-392, "Commission on Poverty Establishment Act of 2006" received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7500. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 16-393, "Office of Police Complaints Amendment Act of 2006" received on July 6, 2006; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.